

SECRET

SENSITIVE *RF*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1 November 1967MEMO FOR EA/DCI

Secretary Nitze was impressed and pleased with the special study re Soviet budget projection. He immediately passed copies to SedDef and Warnke with a personal note reflecting esteem of the product.

Since his two requests thus far have panned some nuggets I pass along his current request for help from CIA experts. He feels a strong need for some current incisive appraisal re the Middle East. This flows in part from some problems he is wrestling with State/Eugene Rostow et al.

Mr. Nitze is aware that several papers have been produced pertinent to his present interest but he wishes a focus as to "the meaning". In part he is honestly confused by some papers saying Nasser is A-OK and others casting doubts, etc. Specifically Mr. Nitze would appreciate an assessment of these: ~~matters on the Middle East:~~

- (a) The internal Egyptian political situation -- Who is in charge; if it is single authority, and what is the outlook?
- (b) Are there new weights ~~or~~ indicators about Egyptian actions against the Israelis?
- (c) The USSR intentions re Egypt and Mid-East -- What is the meaning of Soviet ships in UAR ports? Of Soviet role of influence via the current rebuilding of UAR military? etc. What of possible Soviet moves for UN resolution to be a backdrop for sanctions vs Israel
- (d) What US interests and developing US problems appear in current Mid-East developments? *omit*

*not going to include this part,
will include some econ
considerations*

OSD review(s) completed.